

# IN THE BEGINNING



**Published Quarterly By  
Woodson County Historical Society  
Yates Center, Kansas  
Vol. 19 - No. 76**

## IN THE BEGINNING

Vol. 19-No. 76

October, 1986

*Lester A. Harding, Editor*

### EDITOR'S NOTES —

Another volume has been completed and another year's work on various parts of events that help make up the history of Woodson County.

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We are indebted to Opal Henderson for the use of some pictures and articles in her book, "Today, Beginning and Yesterday." A History of Neosho Falls. Published by Opal and daughter Terri Lynne Henderson.

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We have been asked repeatedly whether we will continue putting out "IN THE BEGINNING" for another year. The way it looks at present we will continue for another year. That is our plans at the present. So if our regular subscribers (and any other) want to pay for another year we will go on as we have been. We have material for at least two issues along with new family articles and any other that our readers may have. We get new material regular so we will not run out of anything to write about. We hope our readers will continue to help us with material.

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Our cover picture is of one of the 100 head Longhorn cattle on the J. Richard Pringle Ranch. We will try and have more of a story about these and some of the first Longhorn cattle brought here by Dick Pringle's grandfather, John Pringle.

\* \* \* \* \*

It almost seems odd that in our memoriam this issue that two native boys from Yates Center never came back to their native county or state. Lon Fry went to State of Washington, while Ben Depew went to the State of Iowa.

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Yates Center, Kansas

\$4.00 a year

\$1.00 single copy

WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Organized March, 1965

There were 63 members and visitors present for July, 1986 dinner meeting of the Woodson County Historical Society. After the meal had been served to the large group, President Kenneth Stockebrand held a business meeting concerning some future needs of the Museum. The program was given by Charles Parker of Fredonia and daughter, who for the past 2½ years has lived in the American Embassy in Moscow, Russia. No pictures were shown, but questions were discussed and answered. It was an interesting meeting.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Woodson County Historical Museum has been kept open Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. It is being kept open additional days with help from the Green Thumb program. Whether the Woodson County Historical Society can meet all of the laws layed down by this Government agency is yet to be seen.

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IN MEMORIAN

**Lon Fry**

**97**

**January, 1986**

Mr. Fry was born in Yates Center, but after several years in the U.S. Army in France, during World I, he never returned to Yates Center, but lived in the State of Washington. He had a Life Membership.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Cecil Tannahill**

**88**

**July 3, 1986**

Mr. Tannahill was not born in Woodson Co. He spent the majority of his life in Woodson Co. Cecil was a Charter Member of the Historical Society.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Benjamin W. Depew**

**98**

**August 21, 1986**

Mr. Depew was born and grew up in Yates Center. He was a member of Company L from Yates Center during WW II, and saw much action in France. Coming back he went to work on a daily paper in Des Moines, Iowa and lived his life out.

\* \* \* \* \*

*Join and Support the*  
**WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
Life Membership \$25.00      Regular Membership \$2.00

## MAJOR GEORGE CATLIN SNOW —

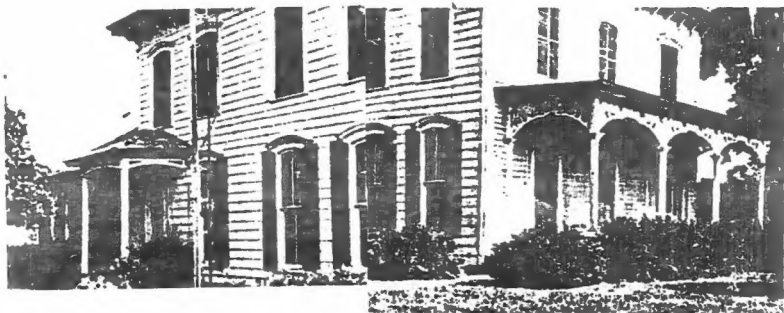
The Major Snow family moved from Indiana to Kansas in 1861. They settled at Baldwin, Kansas, shortly after Major Snow was sent to Neosho Falls, Kansas, as Indian Agent to manage the Seminoles, Sac, Fox and Osage Tribes that lived along the Neosho River. In those days an Indian Agent was given the title of Major. Major Snow acquired a farm along the river.

At first he built a small one room which served as the Indian Mission. He then made plans to move his family to Neosho Falls from Baldwin. The family arrived by horse and carriage sending boxes and trunks by freight to Colony, then on to Neosho Falls in wagons.

Major Snow then began the construction of a fine large house, using the room occupied as the Indian Mission as the beginning of construction. They named this house "Rockland Home." This house is still standing.

The Editor of "In The Beginning" used to call at this house quite a few times in the 1950's when Mr. and Mrs. Jack Diver lived there. Our business was with the A.S.C. government program. About a hundred feet east of the old Mission room was one of the best Indian campsites we ever looked for Indian artifacts. However, we believe that this was used as an Indian Campsite long before the Mission was built.

The Indian squaws visited Mrs. Snow, thinking her house was very nice. The Indians presented the Snow children with a small pony, they named "How-How". The Indians called Major Snow "Big Father."



**This is the north and west side of the "Rockland Home" built by George C. Snow in 1862, making the frame house over 120 years old.**

Major George C. Snow and wife, Lydia A. Snow were parents of six children namely, Cyrus C. Snow; Ann, Howard, died as a child; Ella, Emily, and Florence L. who was the oldest of the children.

\* \* \* \* \*

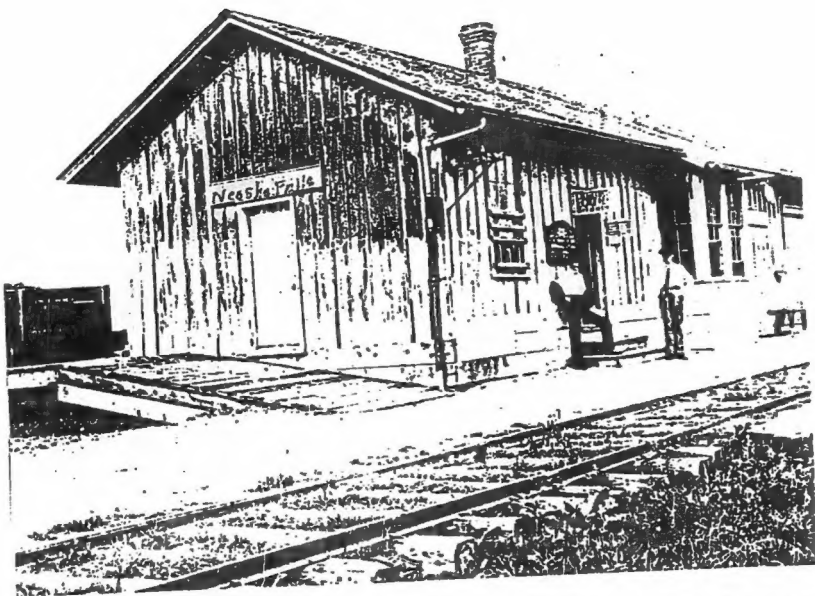
Florence Lydia Snow, was one year old when coming to Neosho Falls, Kansas. The State of Kansas was also 1 year old. Florence started to school in a big room over a store on Main Street. At the age of fifteen Florence entered Baker University in Baldwin.

Major Snow sold the house known as "Rockland Home" on the river bank and built a new brick house on Oak Street in Neosho Falls, naming the place "Fairhaven". This house is still standing and occupied.

Florence L. Snow became quite a brilliant writer. Her book, "Pictures On My Wall", was a book of her early life in Neosho Falls. "Sincerely Yours" was a book of her poetry. A copy "Pictures On My Wall" has been donated to the Woodson County Museum.



**Miss Florence Snow**



The "Katy" Railroad Depot that was built in 1870 when the road was known as the Missouri, Kansas, and Texas Railroad. It was located in the southwest corner of the town of Neosho Falls. It was a low built structure and was painted red. There were ample sidetracks and a large store-house just back of the depot. This is the depot where President and Mrs. Rutherford Hayes stopped and entered horse drawn carriages and buggies to go to the fairgrounds where a large crowd had gathered. Besides President and Mrs. Hayes, there was U.S. General Sherman, Kansas Governor and Mrs. John St. John.

N.S. Goss, who was one of the founders of Neosho Falls and a hard worker to get this branch of railroad to include the town of Neosho Falls was also an official of this railroad for awhile. It was on the platform of this depot where Mr. Goss had his fatal heart attack.

There was also a round-house to the southeast of the depot. The two men in the picture are unidentified.



**BANDITS ESCAPE FROM JAIL!**  
**Made a Bold Dash For Freedom Monday Evening**  
**Small Hope for Immediate Capture**

**\$250.00 OFFERED FOR CAPTURE**



HARRY MILTON



JAMES HARMON

Confinement in the county jail evidently grew monotonous to Harry Milton and James Harmon. Just nineteen days after their daring robbery of the State Exchange Bank, on February 10, they made a bold dash for freedom Monday evening and up to this Thursday morning by press time they had not been captured.

On the day of their escape, Wm. Carroll, the sheriff was in Piqua on business and M.F. Moore, his deputy, had charge of the prisoners. He took their supper to the jail about 5:30 and left shortly afterwards.

The jail contains two small cells and a steel cage, surrounded by a corridor on three sides. The robbers were locked in the steel cage and had never been allowed the freedom of the corridor. Just how they managed to escape from their cage will perhaps never be known. The door leading into the cage is fastened by heavy bolts, one of which is locked by a Yale

padlock, which in turn is partially surrounded by a steel box. This arrangement is intended to prevent a prisoner from the inside of the cage reaching through the bars of the door to the padlock, and many who have examined the locking device declare that it is impossible to unlock the door of the cage from the inside. But time, patience and perseverance, combined with the ingenious cunning of two clever criminals who tactically admitted their guilt, will accomplish many things.

Deputy Sheriff Moore is very sure that he carefully locked the door of the cage after he fed the young bandits.

Getting out of the cage the bandits went into a small room occupied by a man named Feazler - another prisoner, as a bedroom, thence through the door into the outer room of the jail. This is the private dining room of Mr. Feazler, and he was rudely disturbed from his evening repast by their uninvited presence and the request to keep still and make no out cry or they would kill him. One of them flourished a knife about Feazler's head and he offered no interference with their work of prying off the lock from the outside door.

By reaching through the bars and holding a small mirror at the right angle of the padlock can be determined, then a skeleton key fastened to a piece of wire of the right shape would doubtless accomplish the desired result - freedom of the corridor.

Once in the corridor the boys climbed to the top of the cage and proceeded to tear a hole through the metal ceiling above it. This was very clever work also. Their next step toward liberty was to break through the ceiling of the plastered room adjoining and drop to the floor.

Getting through the main jail door the two bandits crossed the street to the north and disappeared from sight between the Stahl (Stoll) garage and Judge Withers office. They were observed, however, by Mr. Irwin and Paul Laidlaw, Sr. the latter at once notified W.J. O'Donnell who came running from the bank in hopes of overtaking the fleeing men or at least in keeping them in sight. He ran north but was obliged to wait several minutes at the railroad crossing until a long freight passed by. This delay caused Mr. O'Donnell to lose track of the men and he returned to organize a posse and institute further search. The condition of the road at that time made it impossible for auto's to travel and the search was made by men on horseback and a foot.

The bandits made a clean getaway -- no trace of them was found until about two months later. They were again arrested and were held over for the District Court.

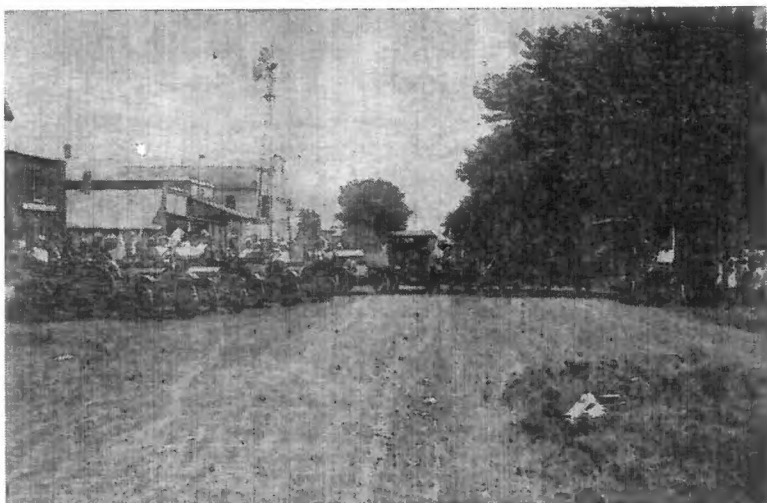


James Harmon, the youngest of the two bandits was discharged, while his companion who had given the name of Harry Milton when caught the first time seemed to have been a hardened criminal.

The Yates Center News of April 23, 1915 gave this account. "Jesse Billings, alias James Burton, alias Harry Milton, pleaded guilty in District Court to robbery in the first degree and was sentenced not to exceed 21 years in the State Penitentiary at Lansing. He is the eldest of two boys who robbed the State Exchange Bank, February 10, 1915."

James Harmon the youngest of the two was not sentenced probably because of his youth. Some time after this young Harmon came back to Yates Center to see and visit with W.J. O'Donnell, who was the first to capture the bank robbers.

\* \* \* \* \*



The above picture was given to us as a street scene in Yates Center. The windmill and the large building by it reminds one that it looks like the old Jordon Mason Livery Stable. However, what looks like a church steeple shows up beyond the windmill. It makes one wonder just what the occasion is to get that many automobiles together at one time. If any of our readers can help us with this we would appreciate it.



**The Light Hardware Building in Yates Center was recently named to the National Register of Historical Places.**

\* \* \* \* \*

In the July, 1986 issue of *IN THE BEGINNING*, we told about this building being built by Stockebrand and Kemmer. This article deals with the building changing from the Stockebrand building to the Light Hardware Company and the end of that business.

The name of Light has been in the business circle of Yates Center for a good many years. It started back in August 24, 1900, when Ed Light and half brother Ernest Beanway ventured into the merchantile business by opening up a store along the south side of the square.

An advertisement in the Yates Center News at that time read -- "Opening of a New Firm - New Goods - We have opened a strictly first class stock of new Dry Goods, boots, shoes and groceries. These goods are all fresh from the Eastern market and will be sold as cheap as good business methods will allow. In the Ream's Building on the south side of the square".-- Beanway and Light.

They evidently built up a good business trade as they stayed in this business for about seven years and then sold out. They next ventured into the lumber business, establishing the Beanway and Light -- Independent Lumber Co. This business was operated on the south side of the street on West Rutledge to the south of where the Yates Center Elevator is.

Here they handled lumber and building material along with "Missouri and Kansas Cement - The Best on Earth".

This business prospered enough so that they decided to expand their lumber business. In 1914 they purchased the B.P. Baker Lumber Yard and merged the two to be known as the Beanway and Light Lumber Co.

This lumber company doing business where the Superior Building Supply Co. now is on west Rutledge Street just west of the square, was successful in its operation.

In 1922 Ed Light sold out his interest in the lumber to Ernest Beanway and it became known as the Beanway Lumber Co.

It was not until two years later that Mr. Light went back into business, and then he ventured into a new field. In June, 1924, Ed Light purchased the Lamborn Bros. Hardware Co., with Charles Opperman as his associate. The firm was known as the Light and Opperman as his associate. The firm was known as the Light and Opperman Hardware Co. with the store on the south side of the square.

In the meantime the Henry Stockebrand family had quit business in the large brick building on the corner that the Stockebrand's had built.

Around 1942 the partnership was dissolved and the store became known as the Light Hardware Company. However, Charley Opperman continued with the company until the Light Boys, Elmer and Enoch returned home from the Armed Forces Services during WW II. They both started working in the store.

A hardware store was purchased at Girard and the Opperman's moved to Girard. After the passing of Ed Light the family continued to operate the store as the Light Hardware, with Enoch as manager.

The Light Hardware Company ceased to exist as a family concern, as the store and the contents were sold at an auction, October 30, 1971.



### **Sunshine Class - Christian Church**

We do not know just what year this picture was taken, but G. H. Lamb had taught this class for 40 years when it was taken.

It was known as the "Sunshine Class" of the First Christian Church of Yates Center. This picture was given to us with each member numbered and the names after the number. We will not give the number but the name of each one as they are numbered on the picture.

Starting with Number 1 - Mrs. Robert Whittaker, Mertie Powell, Della Gregory, Mrs. Bert Adams, Mrs. Anna Jackson, G. H. Lamb, Cora Wilson, Mrs. Les Johnson, Mrs. Anna Mentzer, Mrs. Clark Singleton, Mrs. Parcher, Mrs. Y. P. Alvis, Mrs. May Jones, Mrs. Joe Marple, Mrs. Walter Richards, Helen Peppard, Ella Palmer, Mrs. Ernest Thoroughman, Mrs. U. Gibson, Mrs. Alice Nock, Lillie Cluster, Mrs. W. Booth, Alice Issett, Mrs. Mollie Gramer, Mrs. Lewis, Mrs. Emma Beaver-McCoy-Dewitt-Williams, Cora Rogers, Lura Powell, Mrs. C. B. Varnum.

### **THE TRAVELING PHOTO ARTIST —**

Issac "Ike" Askren, the youngest of a family that helped in the history making of this county and particular in the Turkey Creek area. The writer had never heard of "Ike" Askren until a few years ago when we began to look at old pictures and on the bottom of the pictures would be the writing, "Askren -Traveling Photo Artist." He was taking pictures here in the 1890's. We found an article of when the Keck M.E. Church was being built someone sent word to Isaac Askren to come take a picture of the finished church. That was in 1895. Issac was a younger brother of David and John S. Askren.



**A likeness of Issac M. Askren. On some of his photo's are printed - I.M. Askren, Traveling Photograph Artist.**

In the early days of the 'traveling photographer' people did not get to town very often, especially the mothers and children. Issac Askren had rigged up a traveling vehicle with a covering over it and was pulled by one horse. This was the way he went to the people's farm or home to take pictures. He evidently was very good at his trade as we have pictures taken over a hundred years ago that are sharp and in real good shape.

He also carried a tent used to take pictures and evidently to develop them. In later years Issac took on a partner named Baldwin. Some of the pictures then carried the notice - Askren and Baldwin - Photo Artist.



The tent used by Issac Askren in his travels over the countryside, taking single and family pictures. Issac went to Iowa where he carried on his business.



This picture of Elizabeth "Libbie" Askren about the time she was married to R. T. Dawson in 1885, by "Uncle Ike" Askren. Elizabeth died about three years after this picture was taken.



## ODDS AND ENDS

Woodson County Advocate - January 10, 1913 —

A very pretty wedding was consummated at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Weide of West Center when their eldest daughter, Pearl Mae, was married to Charles H. Opperman of Yates Center. Married on New Year's Day, 1913.

Just at noon the bride and groom, unattended, took their places in the parlor to the strains of Lohengrin's Wedding March, played by Mrs. Jake Klingenburg, sister of the groom, Rev. A. Rodewald pronouncing the words making them Man and Wife.

\* \* \* \* \*

OWENS, The Armless Wonder to be at the Star Theatre January 16, one night only, assisted by H. Sherbahn, comedy Banjo Jugler. Admission 10¢ to all.

\* \* \* \* \*

Ed Kimbell is the owner of a new model 69 Overland. Seems as though the automobile fever has struck this section hard, as the dealers can scarcely fill orders for new cars.

\* \* \* \* \*

**PUBLIC SALE** — As I am leaving the farm and moving to town I will sell at Public Auction on my farm known as the W. B. Butler farm, 8 miles north and 4 miles west of Yates Center, Kansas on Tuesday, January 14, 1913, sale beginning at 10 o'clock sharp, the following property;

Horses and Mules - 1 team bay mares, exactly matched, smooth mouthed, weight 3200; bred to good jack; team of geldings, one bay and one gray, 8 and 10 years old, weight 3100; bay filly coming 2 years old, draft, weight 1050; bay gelding coming 3 years old, trotting bred, weight 950; black mare, trotting bred wt. 850; horse mule, black, coming 2 years old. These horses are all good stock of select breeding.

Farm Implements - 1 runabout; 1 high wheel wagon with storm rack; 1 low wheel wagon with flat rack; 1 Corn King manure spreader; 1 Good Enough 16-inch riding plow; 2 walking listers, one will drill; 12 inch walking plow, 2 16-inch walking plows; 3-6 shovel riding cultivators; one hand seeder; 2 discs; 2 gophers; 1-3 section steel harrow; 1 high wheel corn planter; 1 Dain mowing machine, 2 sulkey rakes; 2 drag rakes; 1 derrick forks; one hay fork singletree; 2 hay knives; 1 Auto Fedan hay baler; 1 low down McCormick corn binder, 1 corn sheller; 2½ sets heavy work harness; 2 sets single harness; 3 sets of fly nets. Terms-Sums of \$10 and under cash. 9 months time at 6 per cent on approved notes if paid when due, if not paid when due 10 per cent from date.

Gustave Weide

W.C. Mills, Auctioneer

C.A. Hale, Clerk

## ODDS AND ENDS

**NORTH LIBERTY** items in the **WOODSON CO. ADVOCATE-1913**

**Christmas, 1912** — The F.W. Butler Pharmacy held a Most Popular Lady. Miss Retta Miller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Asa Miller of North Township was first prize winner, winning over nine other contestants. Marie Mill was second.

**January 10** — Rev. Warner preached at Wesley Chapel Sunday morning.

Those away at school and at home for the holidays-Vera, May and Myrtle Green; Leo Green, Willie Varvel, Earl Guy, Keith Kinyon, John and Walter Stockebrand.

George Harding is in Kansas City visiting his son Arthur this week.

H.O. Etter and family were spending the holidays with their parents, the J. E. Etter and G. W. Williams.

**January 24** — Will Kinyon and John Steele attended the Farmers Institute in Yates Center.

Gus Weide's sale was well attended. Lunch was served by the Wesley Ladies.

Mrs. Joe Gordon was called to Burt last Sunday on account of the illness of her daughter, Mrs. N. L. Old.

Charles Stockebrand has built a neat little cottage for Mrs. Stockebrand's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Kersten.

**February** — Mr. and Mrs. N.L. Old are the proud parents of a fine baby boy February 3.

C.M. Kinyon sold Emil Weide a fine span of black horses.

Lee Steele was the victim of a runaway last Saturday while loading a car of hay at Crotty. His mules became frightened throwing him off the wagon and they ran over two miles. He was bruised pretty bad.

### OVER THE PLAINS —

Everyone is wondering how much longer this cold spell will be.

M. Dand, Harry Sturdivan, J. L. Redick and son, Ray drove to Yates Center Saturday in Mr. Redicks "Ford".

R.B. and J.N. Reed and A.D. Hearn attended the horse sale in Burlington.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Woodson Co. Advocate —

Joe Ridgeway has moved into his new home north of the Woodson Hotel. He is nicely fixed now and will be ready to serve his old customers and anyone that cares for his good things to eat. He will live in the rear of his place so that he can be found at the stand both day and night.

**WANTED** - 76 women with small feet to take home a pair of shoes, worth from \$2.00 to \$4.00 for 50 cents.—Allen-Bell-Hanan.

YATES CENTER NEWS - July, 1908 —

It is hereby ordered that the County Clerk receive sealed bids for curbing and guttering around the public square, the material to be either cement or sandstone and in accordance with specifications on file. Bids to be separate for cement or stone, reserving the right to reject any and all bids.

Fred Jackson, County Clerk

\* \* \* \* \*

An eight-year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Wilson of North Township had one of his legs broken below the knee Thursday afternoon. A team of mules ran away with him throwing him out of the wagon. Dr. Dingus was called to attend him. The mules were hitched to a mowing machine.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Shubert Concert Company, composed of a lot of the finest musicians on earth. All who appreciate music should not miss this. The rarest chance of a lifetime at Apollo Opera House, July 28.

\* \* \* \* \*

D.E. Low, Auctioneer - will cry sales at any and all times. Residence 1½ miles north of Burt on the Peck place.

\* \* \* \* \*

New York Valley Herd - Shorthorn Cattle - Berkshire Hogs. Write or see J.T. Bayer, route 1, telephone on farm.

\* \* \* \* \*

Dave Patterson of Toronto Township who was attending court here last week as a juror had his trousers stolen out of his bedroom at Jas. Thoroughman's where he was boarding last Thursday night and was relieved of something over a dollar in money.

At Ben Brady's residence the same night the screen door was opened and Ben's pants were taken from his bedroom into another room and between 75 and 90 cents in money taken out of his pockets.

\* \* \* \* \*

ROAD NOTICE — Principal Petitioner Geo. Patterson —

Notice is hereby given that a petition was presented to the Board of County Commissioners of Woodson Co. asking that a road be laid out between sections 12 and 7, four miles west of Yates Center. The following persons were appointed to view and lay out said road; T.T. Davis, Robert Cook and Ernest Mentzer, L.N. Tallman county surveyor. Said viewers to meet at place of beginning on the 11th day of August, 1908.

## THE JOSHUA J. PUCKETT FAMILY —

Joshua J. Puckett was born in Kentucky, June 30, 1845. His parents were Wm. and Louisa Puckett. When Joshua was 11 years old he moved with his parents and family to Kansas. This was in 1856, when they landed in Wyandott County, along the Kansas River.

Evidently this was a large wagon train of Puckett's and Blevin's coming from Kentucky to the Kaw Valley of Kansas. At this time we will take up some of the Puckett Family. In looking over the material we have concerning the Puckett's we find that we will have to just write about some of them.

After the Civil War was over some of the Puckett Family decided to move west. We understand that some of the Blevins Family had come through this area before.

It was in 1871 that the Joshua Puckett family came to the Little Sandy Creek Valley first in Wilson and then to Woodson County. Joshua was married to Miss Phoebe Taylor, a native of Tennessee. They were parents of seven children. Omega, Azalia, Curtis L., Alta, Ransom, Joshua and Jay.

Omega married Frank Ridlon.

Azalia born 1885, married --- Pemberton.

Curtis L. born 1887, married Sophronia ---.

Alta married Ralph Wilhite.

Joshua Jr., born 1893, died 1896 at the age of 3 years.

We have nothing about Ransom and Jay.

\* \* \* \* \*

We told some about the oldest son of Wm. and Louisa Puckett, but did not mention that they were the parents of 16 children of which Joshua J. Puckett was the oldest. We will give what information we have on some families, but it is almost impossible to go into very many generations of families. Wm. Puckett was born in Kentucky in 1820 and died at their home along Little Sandy - 1887. Their children besides Joshua J. were as follows.

John Calvin was born 1849, died 1897. His wife, Martha was born in 1845, died 1916. They had at least 2 children, Edgar and Ollie.

Charles (Dock) was born in 1855, died in 1917. His wife was Alice Beuhl.

William Carl was born 1858, died in 1913. His wife was Louise Stygaub who was born in 1861 and died in 1951. They had ten children.

Oliver Franklin (Frank) was born in 1861 and died in 1927. His wife Emma Gollup was born in 1860 and died in 1917. They had a family of 7 boys and 4 girls, equaling 11. They had a daughter Mabel Leona, who married Cloy Taulbee. She died in 1954. (We owe much of the information about these people that settled along Little Sandy from Cloy Taulbee who has lived among the Puckett and Blevins families for quite a few years.

Robert Puckett, born 1867, died in 1901. His wife was Emma Miliron. They had no children. They operated the Middletown store and post office for several years.

Sherman Puckett, and wife Maria had three children. They lived near Sycamore, Kansas.

Lewis and Gus, the other boys we have nothing about them.

There were six of these Puckett girls, three we have nothing about. Bead was a deaf mute. She never married.

Becky married Joe Williamson.

Nan married Samuel Blevins. He was a recruit in Co. A, 12th Kansas Infantry from the Kaw Valley, that several of the Puckett family were in.

Edgar Puckett was a son of John Calvin and Martha Puckett. He married Mary ---. They had seven children namely, Fred Puckett, he married Margaret Keller. Floyd, Elma, Herman, Goldie, Beryl and Mural (twins), Lena and Loren.

\* \* \* \* \*

We feel like we have done a poor job of telling of the various Puckett families, but feel like we should include them in the history of Big and Little Sandy Creeks. (The Editor)

\* \* \* \* \*



We wonder how many of our readers remember the old iron watering trough that stood for quite a few years at the northeast corner of the Yates Center public square near the well. Farmers hauling baled hay would stop there and water their horses. With a couple of teams and loads of hay would stop there and would cause some commotion trying to get around the corner. In 1924, the watering trough was moved to the corner of Rutledge and Prairie, where the Beanway and Light Lumber Yard - where the Superior Store now is. Several years ago a large truck turned the corner too short. The old iron trough hit the pavement and broke it all to pieces. This was the last of the old iron horse watering troughs in town.

## THOMAS ALEXANDER McCULLOUGH and FAMILY —

Thomas A. McCullough was born in Ireland, and his wife Mary Ann Wales was born in Wales. They were married in Glasgow, Scotland. They made their home in Calvin Co., Ireland. They were the parents of seven children. James, Margaret (who died in Ireland as a child) William, John, Annie, Minnie, Alexander Errol.

Thomas A. McCullough was a manufacturer in Ireland. His country was in such a turmoil in the 1800's he decided to sell his holdings there and bring his family to the "Promised Land" the United States of America. He made arrangements with a ship captain that he could trust. The Irish government was not permitting people to leave the country at that time. He had to hide his family in a field all day long for darkness to set in so he could board his family on the ship.

They sailed for the U.S.A. landing in New York State. They settled at Jamestown, New York, where he farmed. The Civil War broke out, and he joined the Union Army at Hornsville, New York, August 4, 1862. He received a medical discharge January 15, 1863 because of valvular disease of the heart, contracted in service. Shortly after his discharge his wife developed a respiratory ailment. They thought the plains would be a dryer climate, so they headed west.

In 1870 they arrived at Neosho Falls, Kansas and that year purchased 640 acres west of Neosho Falls, where he farmed, raised Clydsdale horses and cattle. On November 26, 1885, the wife and mother, Mary Ann passed away at the age of 56 years. Mr. McCullough continued to farm and as each one of his children married he gave them 160 acres. he died in 1905, and with his wife, they are buried in Cedarvale Cemetery at Neosho Falls.

Alexander Errol McCullough married Lillie Mae Alyea. They were the parents of six children namely; Lillie Mae, Max, Willie, Errol Lester, Thurlow W., and Alexander Benson.

Alexander E. owned and operated a merchantile store in Burlington, Kansas for several years. He started a farming operation and also had a saw mill on the creek bank on the family farm west of Neosho Falls. In the off months of his farming he and his wife Lillie Mae owned a traveling show that they called "Uncle Tom's Cabin", which portrayed the noted story of the south.

Of the children of Alexander E. and Lillie Mae, the first three died in infancy, Errol Lester was born June 8, 1892, and died February 22, 1959. He was married to Lelo.



Thurlow W. was born in 1895 and died in 1926. Thurlow was shot and killed while working as a telegrapher in the Santa Fe Depot in Iola by an unknown robber. Thurlow served in the Armed Forces in France during World War I.

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**The Alexander Errol McCullough Family. Left to right: Alex B., Thurlow W., the mother, Lillie Mae, Alexander E., Lelo, wife of Errol Lester.**

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Alex Benson was married to Neva Opal Stephen, their children were, Opal Mae, Alex Jr., Pauline, Betty Jane, William (Bill), and Frank. After the death of Alex B., Opal married Carl Saferite. They had two children, Kenneth and Ruth.

Opal Mae married Clarence Henderson, Jr.

Bill McCullough married Joyce Heslop.

## ALONG THE VERDIGRIS VALLEY —

Along in the Spring of 1858, a caravan of wagons pulled by oxen arrived in the Verdigris Valley, just south of where the city of Toronto is and camped for the night. The wagon train had been headed for the Walnut River Valley, near El Dorado, but as the caravan stopped for the night the leader of the group decided that the country here was what they were looking for.

The leader and the members of the caravan knew that the Flint Hills were still ahead. They scouted around and found a few settlers had decided to stay in the valley and this group decided to stay.

The leader of the wagon train was Samuel Hase. (The name is pronounced as Hays). With Samuel Hase were his wife and two sons, Henry and Jacob and a small daughter. The wagon train had come from Fredericktown, Missouri near Cape Girardeau. Also in the group with the train were Samuel's brothers, Daniel and John Hase and Jake Penturf, a brother of Mrs. Hase.

Samuel Whybarger Hase was born in Germany, 1827 and was married June 25, 1838 to Sarah Catherine Penturf. She was born September 25, 1896. Samuel died February 24, 1901, at the age of 97. They both along with some of their family are buried in the Carlisle Cemetery.

They were the parents of ten children, John Henry Hase, who married Emma Bea.

Jacob Penturf Hase who married Elisa Jane Reed.

Hanna Elizabeth who married William Evans.

Samuel Whybarger, who died at age of 2 months, 12 days.

Franklin Hase, who married Beulah Shaw.

Mary Jane Hase, died as an infant.

Martha Ella Emily died at age of 7 years.

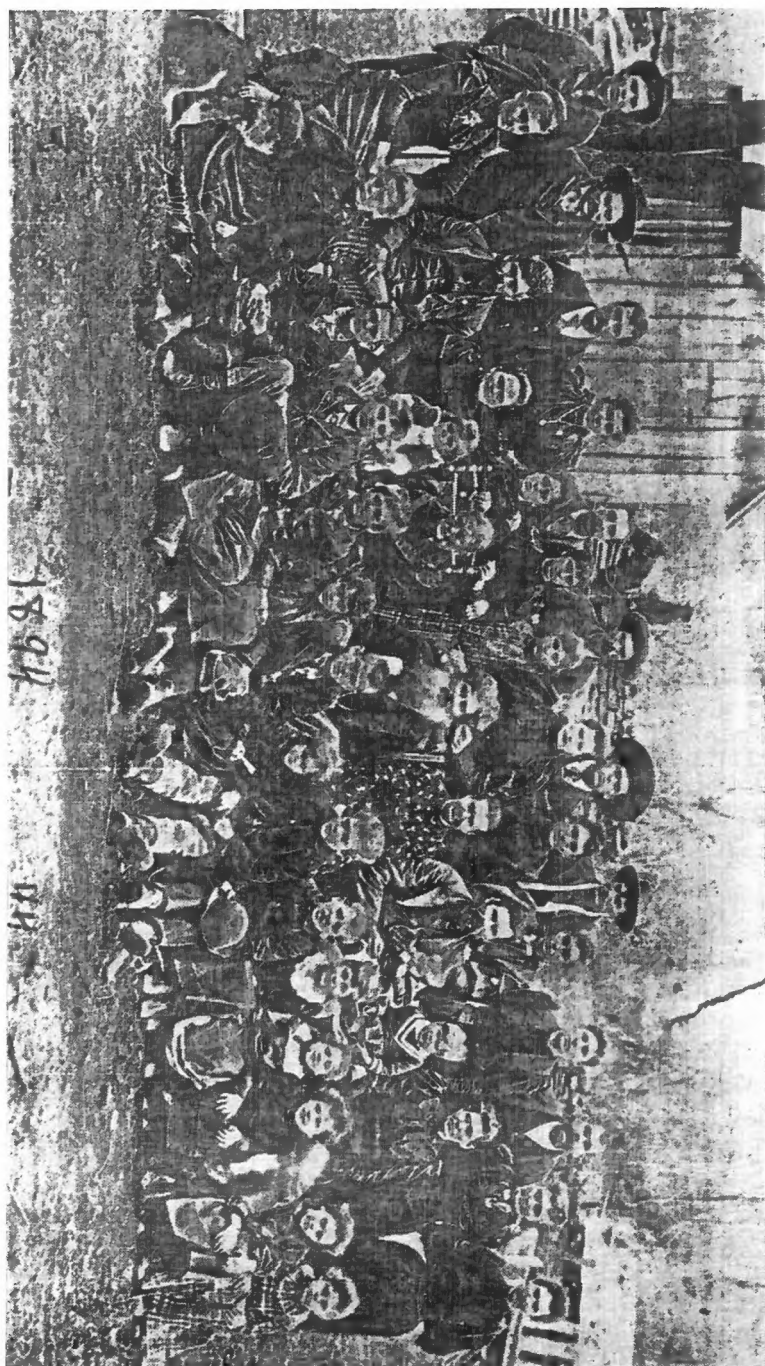
Sarah Ann died at age one month.

Serema Melvina Hase, who married -- Walker.

Christina Catherine Hase, who evidently never married but died at age of 63 years.

The first house of Samuel and Sarah was a log cabin with a loft but no stairway. His two boys were lifted into the loft at bedtime and had to be helped down after bedtime.

This group settled up and down the Verdigris Valley. Other settlers in this community when the Hase's came here were, Thomas Carlisle, Smith Wilhite, Bill Pledger, Lewis Thompson and William Babbs. Practically all of the land homesteaded by this group is now under water of the Toronto Reservoir.

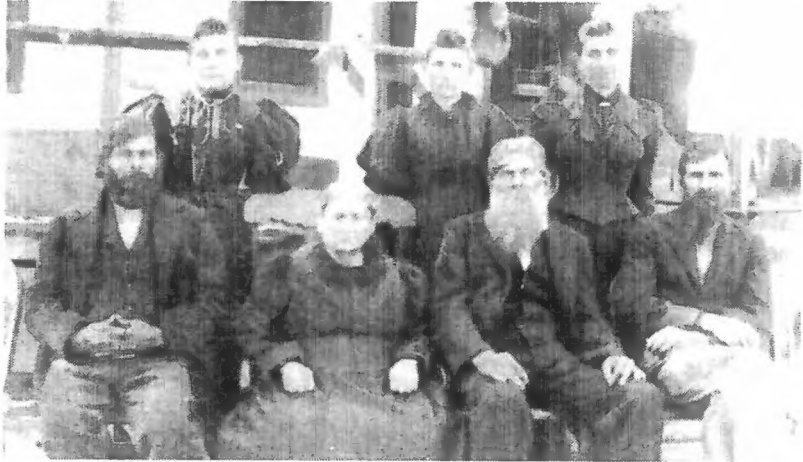


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As his family grew and their children grew, Samuel knew it was time to replace his log cabin. A large two story brick house was built not far from the river. This is the house we will try and show with some of the Hase and other families.

Samuel Hase homesteaded the S.E. quarter of Section 25, now about the center of the Toronto Lake. During his lifetime Samuel Hase had seven living children that he gave 80 acres each as did his second wife.



**The Samuel Hase Family. Picture taken September 25, 1894. Seated left to right are Henry, the Mother, Sarah Catherine, Samuel, Father, and Jacob. Back row, Christina, Hannah and Serena. Franklin was absent that day.**

\* \* \* \* \*

A picture of the Hase Family and others that lived along the Verdigris River Valley. Picture taken in 1894.

Starting in the back row L to R: Daniel Hase, Eugene Beane, Ed Walker, Teenie Walker, Joe Walker, Edgar Beane, Chas. Hase, Cal Hikerbrand. On the horse in background is Tom LaRue.

Second Row: Serena Walker, Henry Hase, Emma Hase, Katie Walker, Serena Hase, Mary Evans, Emma Evans, Ella Hase, Lula Hase, Lota Evans, Frank Hase, Buella Hase, Ella Cockran. Row three: Eugene Hase, Grandma Sarah Hase, Grandpa Samuel Hase, Lydia Hase, Jake Hase, Nellie Hase, Josey Hase, Hannah Evans, Jennie Walker, J.C. Hase, Smith Hase, Sam Hase, Effie Hase, Elmer Hase, Maude Hase, Frank Hase, Gussia Walker, Emma Hase, Rose Hase, Nellie Walker, Chas. Cockran, Myrtle Cockran, Myrtle Evans.

**PATRONS OF WOODSON COUNTY  
HISTORICAL QUARTERLY**

Milton & Virginia Schornick  
Kenneth & Barbara Stockebrand  
John V. Glades Agency  
Street Abstract Co., Inc.  
State Exchange Bank  
Self Service Grocery  
Steiner's Sundries  
Piqua Farmer's Co-op  
Morton Equipment Co.  
Swope & Son Implement Co.  
Superior Bldg. & Supply, Inc.  
The Herring Families  
Cantrell Hay Co.,  
    Craig Cantrell  
Helene Schnell  
Wilma Mark  
Yates Center News  
Pringle Ranch -  
    J. Richard Pringle  
Atkin Rexall Pharmacy  
Campbell Funeral Home  
Glen & Zola Baker  
Piqua State Bank  
Laurence M. &  
    Alice Catherin Smith  
Ken Kimbell

Lynn and Gail Cantrell  
Gaulding Oil Co.  
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Ward  
Clyde Hill  
Kimbell Ranch-Ed. Kimbell  
Hi-Way Food Basket  
Atkin Clinic  
Blackjack Cattle Co. Inc.  
Jaspers Shopping Spot  
Daly Western Supply  
Linde Barber Shop  
Campbell Plmg. & Electric  
Ted Spencer-Gen. Agent  
    Woodson Co. Farm Bureau  
Jaynes Insurance Agency  
Glenn Shaw  
C.L. "Matty" & Luriel Mathews  
Milton & Marcella Wrampe  
Loren & Rita Cantrell  
Al's Jewelry  
Edwin G. Reid, St. Louis, MO  
Rex Butler, Nashville, TN  
Thomas Wilson  
Bill Herman  
Abbott & Ethel Crandall

